ORCHIDACEAE AMERICANAE

By

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Introduction

The following paper continues the series of nomenclatural notes and adjustments commenced under the title "Studies in Neotropical Orchidology" in Acta Botanica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Vol. 14: pp. 63-70 (1968). As in the previous contribution, the genera considered in the present study are *Brassavola* R. Br., *Schomburgkia* Lindl. and *Hoffmannseggella* H. G. Jones. The notes which comprise this series of studies have been accumulated during the course of collecting materials for a taxonomic revision of the three genera concerned.

The following is the geographic range of the species and varieties discussed: *Brassavola cucullata* (Colombia, Venezuela, México and Central America, West Indies); *B. lineata* (Guatemala, Panama); *Schomburgkia rosea* (Colombia, Venezuela); *S. rosea* var. *Schultzei* (Colombia); all the species of *Hoffmannseggella* are confined geographically to Brazil.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Director of the Naturhistorisches Museums' Botanische Abteilung in Vienna, who very kindly made available on loan all the specimens of *Laelia harpophylla* and *L. longipes* from Reichenbach's herbarium, which included a number of valuable drawings in pencil and water-colours, in addition to the actual dried specimens. My thanks are also due to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (England), who provided excellent photographs of the original type-specimens of *Brassavola acaulis*, *B. lineata*, *Schomburgkia rosea*, *Laelia caulescens*, *L. flava* and *L. rupestris*, from the herbaria of Hooker and Lindley. Last but by no means least, I should like to thank the Librarian of the Department of Botany in London's British Museum (Natural History), who provied photocopies of extracts form a number of publications which were not available in any of the libraries here in Barbados.

I

Brassavola cucullata (L.) R. Br. in Ait. Hort. Kew. 5: 216 (1813).
Epidendrum cucullatum L. Sp. Pl. 2: 1350 (1763).
Cymbidium cucullatum Sw. Nov. Act. 6: 33 (1799).
Brassavola cuspidata Hook. Bot. Mag. t. 3722 (1840).
Brassavola odoratissima Regel in Gartenflora 1: 325 (1852).
Bletia cucullata Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 433 (1861).
Brassavola elongata A. D. Hawkes in Orch. Jour. 3: 80 (1954).

In my previous notes on this species (Jones, 1967, 1968) I omitted the name *Brassavola odoratissima* from synonymy because, at that time, this concept was known to me only by name. I have now been able to examine a copy of Regel's description and the excellent accompanying plate, which leaves no doubt in my mind as to the correcness of the traditional attribution of *B. odoratissima* to the synonymy of *B. cucullata.* I have also included here the name *B. elongata,* which is undoubtedly a nude synonymous epithet of *B. cucullata.* In his note appended to the paper by Teuscher (1954), Hawkes remarked that *B. cucullata* "is typically grown under the synonymous name of *B. cuspidata,* or sometimes as *B. elongata*". Perhaps *B. elongata* was written by mistake for *B. appendiculata;* but the true *B. appendiculata* A. Rich & Gal. appears to be a synonym of *B. cucullata* var. *elegans* Schltr. (Jones, 1968).

Brassavola lineata Hook. Bot. Mag. t. 4734 (1853).
Bletia lineata Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 436 (1861).

In my recently published key to the species of *Brassavola* § *Cuneilabia* (Jones, 1968a) I excluded *B. lineata,* following traditional attribution of this name to the synonymy of *B. acaulis* Lindl. After a comparative restudy of the two type-collections, however, I have decided to recognize *B. lineata* as distinct on the basis of the following characteristics: (1) the leaves are longer and narrower than those of *B. acaulis;* (2) the inflorescence has 2-3 flowers, whereas *B. acaulis* is always 1-flowered; (3) the flowers are smaller than those of *B. acaulis;* (4) the labellum a proportionately narrower and pure white, without any of the purple flecks found in *B. acaulis.*

In his monograph of the genus *Brassavola,* published in 1919, Schlechter united *B. acaulis* and *B. lineata;* but later (1922) he recognized them as distinct species. Williams (1885) also did so, but he included *B. Mathieuana* Kl. (1853) in the synonymy of *B. lineata.* After a careful reading of the original diagnosis of *B. Mathieuana,* however, I have come to the conclusion that this name should be regarded as a synonym of *B. acaulis.*

II

Schomburgkia rosea Lind. ex Lindl. Bot. Reg. 31: 53 (1845).

Bletia rosea Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 420 (1861).

In previous papers (Jones, 1966, 1967a) I included this concept in the synonymy of the geographically widespread and rather variable *S. undulata* Lindl. However, after a careful restudy of the original material, I have come to the conclusion that *S. rosea* may be regarded as distinct from *S. undulata* on the basis of the following characteristics: (1) the leaves are relatively broader and blunter at the tips; (2) the flower-scape is shorter; (3) the flowers are smaller and ligther-coloured than those of *S. undulata;* (4) the floral segments are proportionately broader and less deeply undulate; (5) there are only 3 keels on the lip as compared with 5 in *S. undulata.*

Incidentally, I have seen no material of *S. rosea* from Venezuela; but Dr. L. A. Garay of Harvard University, who is the leading authority on Venezuelan orchids, has informed me in correspondance that the species also occurs in Venezuela. In addition to the type-specimen at Kew, I have also been able to examine a photograph of an isotype specimen of *S. rosea* from the Delessert herbarium in Geneva.

Schomburgkia rosea var. **Schultzei** (Schltr.) H. G. Jones, comb. nov.

Schomburgkia Schultzei Schltr. in Fedd. Rep. 27: 139 (1924).

This variety is distinguished from the *forma typica* by its slightly larger flowers, but rather short pedicels, wich tend to give the inflorescence a crowded appearance at the top of the flower-scape.

III

The genus *Hoffmannseggella* was recently established by the author to accommodate the species which formerly constituted the section *Cyrtolaelia* Schltr. of the genus *Laelia* Lindl. The new combinations in *Hoffmannseggella* listed below are published pending the completion of my projected revision of the entire genus.

Hoffmannseggella caulescens (Lindl.) H. G. Jones, comb. nov.

Laelia caulescens Lindl. Bot. Reg. 27: 1 (1841).
Laelia rupestris Lindl. Bot. Reg. 28: 62 (1842).
Bletia caulescens Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 431 (1861).
Bletia rupestris Rchb. f. in Walp. Ann. 6: 431 (1861).
Laelia longipes Rchb. f. Xen. Orch. 2: 59 (1863).
Bletia longipes Rchb. f. Xen. Orch. 2: 59 (1863).

A rather variable species in regard to the colour of the flowers, which varies from light to fairly dark reddish-purple. The late R. A. Rolfe was apparently the first to discover that *L. longipes* could not be maintained as distinct, for there is a note to this effect in his handwriting on one of the sheets in Lindley's herbarium. However, both Schlechter (1917) and Hoehne (1952) maintained *L. rupestris* and *L. longipes* as distinct from *L. caulescens.*

Hoffmannseggella flava (Lindl.) H. G. Jones, comb. nov.
Laelia flava Lindl. Bot. Reg. 25: 88 (1839).
Laelia fulva Lindl. ex Henynh. Nomncl. 2: 29 (1846).
Cattleya flava Beer, Prakt. Stud. 210 (1854).
Bletia flava Rchb. f. in Walp Ann. 6: 431 (1861).
Laelia Briegeri Blum. in Pub. Cient. Univ. S. Paulo 1: 41 (1960).

A very distinct, yellow-flowered species. Blumenschein (1960) compared his *L. Briegeri* with *L. crispilabia* and *L. rupestris,* giving good reasons for separating it from these concepts. However, I have not been able to find any consistently satisfactory means of separating *L. Briegeri* from *L. flava* and have, therefore, placed the name here in synonymy.

Hoffmannseggella harpophylla (Rchb. f.) H. G. Jones, comb. nov.
Laelia harpophylla Rchb. f. in Gard. Chron. 542 (1873).
Laelia geraensis Barb. Rodr. in Rev. Hort. 45 (1876).

Another very distinct species by reason of the long, slender stems and bright orange-coloured flowers. There are two specimens among the sheets in Reichenbach's herbarium which are somewhat atypical; but they agree with cultivated specimens which I have seen and appear to represent a hitherto undescribed species of the genus. There is a drawing of the type of *Laelia geraensis* attached to one of Reichenbach's sheets.

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